

Accelerating Growth
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Indiana's economic growth is accelerating with world-class companies like Sysco (550 new jobs in Hamlet), Rolls Royce (600 new jobs in Indianapolis), Shoe Carnival (280 new jobs in Evansville), Toyota (1,000 new jobs in Lafayette), Honda (2000 new jobs in Greensburg), Nestle (300 new jobs in Anderson), Pfizer (450 new jobs in Terre Haute), American Commercial Lines (1150 new jobs in Jeffersonville) all choosing Indiana this year for their next job creating investment. Clearly, companies around the country and around the world are taking notice that Indiana is a great place to do business.

Despite Indiana's unprecedented job creation and capital investment commitments in 2006, we must continue to create the conditions necessary to ensure sustained job growth and ultimately economic prosperity for every Hoosier. In this regard, the Governor and the IEDC earlier this year released a new strategic economic development plan for the State of Indiana entitled "*Accelerating Growth*." The plan includes a series of initiatives which are ultimately focused on reversing Indiana's decline in per capita income and moving Indiana into a preeminent position in the nation's economy.

The plan's 37 initiatives fall within the following areas: entrepreneurship and innovation; education and workforce; and investment in key infrastructure and the adoption of policies that encourage investment in our state. The goals of the plan are to make Indiana a national leader for innovation and entrepreneurship; ensure that Hoosier workers obtain the skills necessary to fill the jobs of the future; and for Indiana to become one of the most investment friendly states in the country by creating the best "sand box" in America.

Accelerating Growth recognizes that economic growth and competitive advantage occur at the regional level, rather than at the state or local levels. Clearly, Indiana is not a single economy but rather a collection of regional economies with different strengths and resources that are potential drivers of economic growth. Therefore, the successful implementation of the economic growth initiatives outlined in this plan require the support of regional networks composed of civic, business, investor, academic, entrepreneurial, and philanthropic partners.

Accelerating Growth includes a number of initiatives that will require us to make new investments in our future. In this regard, we look forward to working with the General Assembly in the coming months as we determine which initiatives should take priority to ensure continued economic growth in Indiana.

A copy of the *Accelerating Growth* plan can be found at www.iedc.in.gov